

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for removing air or debris from a flow of liquid, ~~[[said]]~~ the apparatus comprising:

a shell having an inlet, an outlet, and an ~~elongate~~ inner cavity in fluid communication with each of ~~[[said]]~~ the inlet and ~~[[said]]~~ the outlet; and

~~a plurality of at least one elongate coalescing medium assemblies~~ assembly disposed within ~~[[said]]~~ the cavity of ~~[[said]]~~ the shell ~~such that said coalescing medium assemblies are oriented substantially parallel to each other~~, each ~~[[said]]~~ coalescing medium assembly including ~~[[::]]~~ a plurality of wire mesh tubes oriented substantially parallel to each other; ~~and a wire mesh retaining wall substantially surrounding said tubes and holding said tubes together~~, each wire mesh tube having ends, a longitudinal axis extending between the ends, and a side wall extending between the ends, and the flow of liquid being directed to enter and exit the side walls of the plurality of wire mesh tubes.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein each ~~[[said]]~~ coalescing medium assembly includes an elongate core element substantially surrounded by ~~[[said]]~~ the tubes and oriented substantially parallel to ~~[[said]]~~ the tubes, ~~[[said]]~~ the core element having:

a longitudinal axis extending in a longitudinal direction; and

at least one substantially continuous side surface facing in a lateral direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 3, further comprising an end cap including a plurality of recesses, an end of each of ~~[[said]]~~ the core elements being received in a respective one of ~~[[said]]~~ the recesses.

6-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for removing air or debris from a flow of liquid, ~~[[said]]~~ the apparatus comprising:

a shell having an inlet, an outlet, and an ~~elongate~~ inner cavity in fluid communication with each of ~~[[said]]~~ the inlet and ~~[[said]]~~ the outlet; and

a plurality of tubes ~~tightly packed~~ positioned within ~~[[said]]~~ the inner cavity of ~~[[said]]~~ the shell such that ~~[[said]]~~ the tubes are oriented substantially parallel to each other, each of the tubes having a longitudinal axis, and at least one of ~~[[said]]~~ the tubes having a ~~discontinuous surface~~ surface with a plurality of apertures; and

an air vent positioned to release air that is removed from the flow of liquid by the plurality of tubes.

22. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the flow of liquid flows into and out of the tubes in a direction substantially transverse to the longitudinal axes of the tubes.

23. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the air vent is positioned above the plurality of tubes.

24. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the shell further comprises a bottom section including an aperture configured to permit removal of debris that settles out of the flow of liquid.

25. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the shell further comprises a bottom section that is removably attached to the remainder of the shell.

26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the shell further comprises a bottom section including a valve configured to permit selective removal of debris that settles out of the flow of liquid.

27. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the ends of each wire mesh tube are positioned at first and second longitudinal positions along the longitudinal axis, and the outlet has a longitudinal position between the first and second longitudinal positions of the ends.

28. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein each coalescing medium assembly further includes a coupling element surrounding the plurality of wire mesh tubes and holding the plurality of wire mesh tubes together.

29. (New) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein each coalescing medium assembly includes a band wrapped around the coupling element and holding the coupling element in engagement with the plurality of wire mesh tubes.

30. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the wire mesh tubes includes a projection extending from an inner surface of the wire mesh tube and into an interior of the wire mesh tube.

31. (New) An apparatus for removing air or debris from a flow of liquid, the apparatus comprising:

a shell having an inlet, an outlet, and an inner cavity in fluid communication with the inlet and the outlet; and

at least one elongate coalescing medium assembly disposed within the inner cavity of the shell, each coalescing medium assembly including:

at least one elongate core element; and

a plurality of wire mesh tubes, each of the wire mesh tubes having a longitudinal axis, the wire mesh tubes cooperating to define at least one interior space therebetween, and the at least one elongate core element being positioned within the interior space in an orientation substantially parallel to the plurality of wire mesh tubes to support the plurality of wire mesh tubes against the flow of liquid through the apparatus.

32. (New) The apparatus of Claim 31, further comprising an end cap including at least one recess, an end of each of the elongate core elements being received in a respective one of the recesses.

33. (New) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the elongate core element comprises a cylindrical tube.

34. (New) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the wire mesh tubes are arranged in a substantially circular pattern when viewed along the longitudinal axes of the wire mesh tubes such that each wire mesh tube engages two adjacent ones of the wire mesh tubes.

35. (New) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the plurality of wire mesh tubes are formed of substantially horizontal wires and interconnected substantially vertical wires.

36. (New) An apparatus for removing air or debris from a flow of liquid, the apparatus comprising:

a shell having an inlet, an outlet, and an inner cavity in fluid communication with each of the inlet and the outlet; and

at least one elongate coalescing medium assembly disposed within the inner cavity of the shell, each coalescing medium assembly including a plurality of wire mesh tubes oriented substantially parallel to each other, each wire mesh tube having ends and a longitudinal axis extending between the ends, and the flow of liquid flowing in a direction substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of the plurality of wire mesh tubes.

37. (New) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the ends of each wire mesh tube are positioned at first and second longitudinal positions along the longitudinal axis, and the outlet has a longitudinal position between the first and second longitudinal positions of the ends.

38. (New) The apparatus of Claim 36, further comprising an air vent positioned above the plurality of wire mesh tubes to release air that is removed from the flow of liquid by the plurality of wire mesh tubes.

39. (New) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the shell further comprises a bottom section that is removably attached to the remainder of the shell.

40. (New) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the shell further comprises a bottom section including a valve configured to selectively remove debris that settles out of the flow of liquid.

41. (New) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the at least one coalescing medium assembly further comprises at least one elongate core element oriented substantially parallel to the plurality of wire mesh tubes to support the plurality of wire mesh tubes against the flow of liquid through the apparatus.

42. (New) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein each wire mesh tube includes a sidewall extending between the ends and the liquid enters and exits the sidewalls while passing through the wire mesh tubes.